

Summary

Main Features

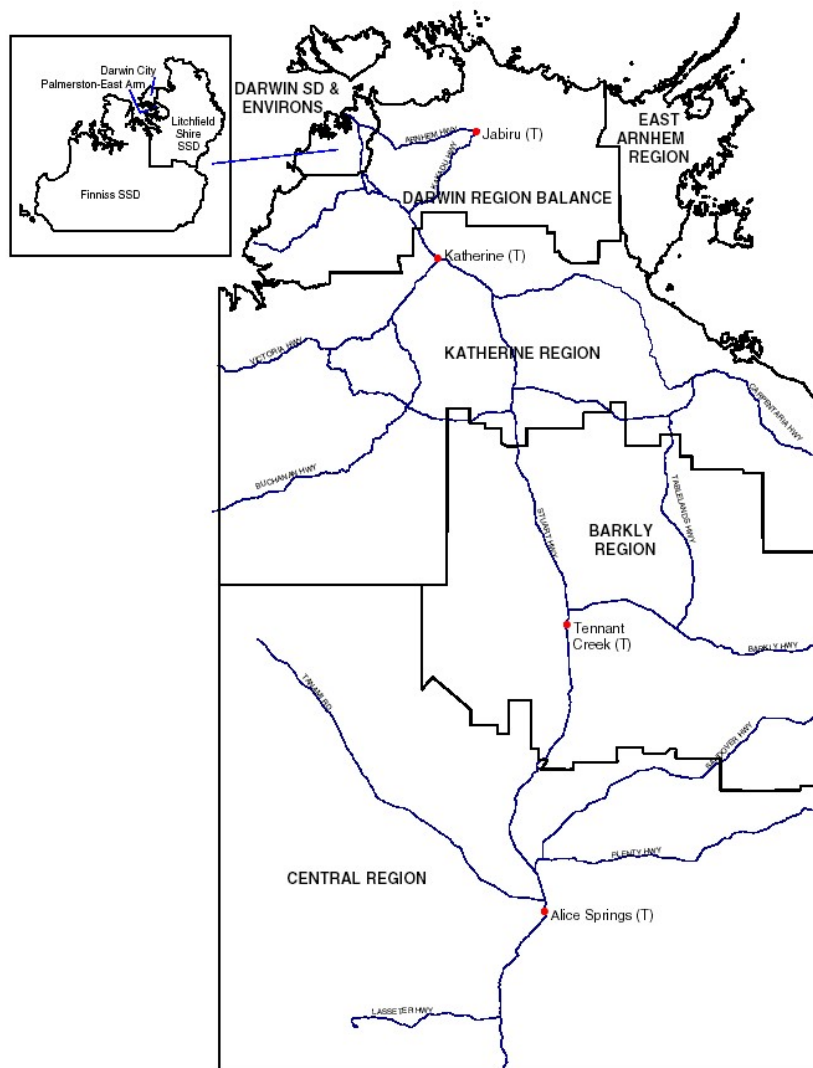
INTRODUCTION

Regional Statistics, Northern Territory, 2005 presents a statistical summary of key social and economic information for the Northern Territory (NT) as a whole and for the NT Government's six administrative regions. It contains current and historical data drawn from both the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and non-ABS sources to give users an overview of the social, economic and population characteristics of the NT and each administrative region, including how the regions have contributed to the Territory's economy over time.

This edition includes new data from a variety of sources: experimental Indigenous population projections by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) region from the ABS; higher education data from the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education; education and income data from the ABS' National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2002; experimental estimates of sources of personal income derived by the ABS using data from the Australian Taxation Office and the Department of Family and Community Services; and data on Family Tax Benefit and Rent Assistance payments by Centrelink. In addition, a short feature article provides an update on the first year of operation of the Adelaide to Darwin railway.

The NT Government's six administrative regions (illustrated below) consist of aggregations of Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) which are part of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). All data in this publication are presented according to the 2003 version of the ASGC unless otherwise indicated.

NT ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS



1.1 NORTHERN TERRITORY BY REGIONS, SUMMARY

	Unit	Darwin SD and Environs	Darwin Region Balance	East Arnhem Region	Katherine Region	Barkly Region	Central Region	Northern Territory
Area	sq km	10,262	132,012	37,997	336,674	283,648	546,572	1,346,200
Population								
Estimated resident population at 30 June 2004p	no.	111,365	12,632	14,115	17,212	5,840	38,749	199,913
Annual growth rate 1999 to 2004(a)	%	1.2	0.5	0.7	-0.3	-1.3	0.3	0.7
Age range of population, 30 June 2003								
0-4 years	no.	8,659	1,460	1,608	1,785	606	3,345	17,463
5-14 years	no.	16,491	2,656	2,833	3,205	1,094	6,672	32,951
15-44 years	no.	54,774	6,461	6,927	8,403	2,831	19,514	98,910
45-64 years	no.	24,981	1,860	2,343	2,958	1,119	7,674	40,935
65 years and over	no.	5,015	391	275	751	211	1,642	8,285
Total persons	no.	109,920	12,828	13,986	17,102	5,861	38,847	198,544
Median age, June 2003	years	32.1	24.8	26.6	27.8	27.0	29.9	30.3
Births, 2003	no.	1,857	329	357	396	144	700	3,790
Deaths, 2003	no.	370	59	71	92	41	219	875
Indigenous population, Census 2001								
Age range of population								
0-4 years	no.	1,231	1,076	986	867	377	1,398	5,939
5-14 years	no.	2,594	2,270	1,816	1,850	810	2,972	12,314
15-44 years	no.	4,905	4,396	4,102	3,756	1,546	6,501	25,261
45-64 years	no.	1,191	917	874	811	386	1,608	5,798
65 years and over	no.	227	205	162	237	100	530	1,473
Total persons	no.	10,148	8,864	7,940	7,521	3,219	13,009	50,785
Labour force, DEWR(b), December quarter 2004								
Unemployed persons	no.	2,147	702	561	639	207	1,822	6,078
Unemployment rate	%	3.4	17.3	11.2	8.0	9.2	9.5	6.0
Persons in the labour force	no.	63,040	4,061	5,004	7,968	2,249	19,264	101,586
Education								
Student enrolments, government schools, August 2004	no.	17,863	1,753	3,261	3,699	1,144	5,056	32,776
Student enrolments, non-government schools, August 2004	no.	5,036	746	125	319	-	2,755	8,981
Higher education enrolments, 2004(c)	no.	1,321	14	14	61	7	99	1,516
Vocational education and training enrolments, 2004	no.	9,083	3,082	1,168	2,158	391	2,618	23,673
Income								
Wage and salary earners, 2001-02	no.	49,267	1,987	3,194	4,772	1,449	13,898	74,731
Average wage and salary income, 2001-02	\$	37,371	32,950	43,850	34,442	33,165	34,989	36,817
Newstart Allowance(b) clients, June 2003	no.	4,405	2,221	1,542	1,771	461	3,955	14,355
Law and public safety								
Sexual assault and related offences, 2004	no.	222	16	15	42	20	47	362
Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter, 2004	no.	2,034	192	252	282	200	514	3,474
Traffic infringement notices, 2004	no.	28,870	282	304	918	255	2,131	32,760
Building approvals, 2003-04(d)								
New houses	no.	340	52	20	34	24	75	545
Value of new houses	\$m	71.4	11.4	4.7	6.7	5.2	12.5	112.1
New other residential building	no.	566	6	4	-	-	17	593
Value of new other residential building	\$m	104.0	1.2	0.6	-	-	2.8	108.6
Value of alteration/addition to residential building	\$m	28.5	0.5	1.4	2.0	0.7	6.4	39.5
Value of non-residential building	\$m	123.3	4.9	1.0	9.7	2.4	29.6	170.9
Value of total building	\$m	327.2	18.0	7.2	18.4	8.3	51.3	431.1

(a) Average annual growth rate.

(b) See Glossary.

(c) Includes higher education enrolments for Charles Darwin University only.

(d) Components may not add to totals due to rounding.

POPULATION

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

The estimated resident population in the Northern Territory (NT) at June 2004 was 199,913 with an average annual growth rate of 0.7% for the five years to June 2004. Population growth over the five years to June 2004 was unevenly spread across the NT, with a decrease in the populations of the Katherine and Barkly regions offsetting increases in the populations of the other four regions. At 30 June 2004 more than half of the NT population lived in Darwin SD and Environs (56%) with 35% of the total NT population residing in Darwin City SSD. Darwin SD and Environs had an average annual growth rate of 1.2% for the five years to June 2004, with Palmerston-East Arm SSD contributing significantly with an average annual growth rate of 4.0% over this period. The major regional centres of Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek accounted for 19% of the NT population at June 2004.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT INDIGENOUS POPULATION

The experimental estimated resident Indigenous population in the NT at June 2001 was 56,875, representing around 29% of the NT population, compared with around 2% nationally. Darwin Region Balance was estimated to have the highest proportion of Indigenous persons at 30 June 2001 (78%), while Darwin SD and Environs had the lowest (11%). More than nine out of every ten people were estimated to be Indigenous in the SLAs of Bathurst-Melville, West Arnhem, East Arnhem - Bal and Tennant Creek - Bal. In contrast, more than nine out of every ten people in Litchfield Shire SSD and Nhulunbuy SLA were estimated to be non-Indigenous.

AGE AND SEX STRUCTURE

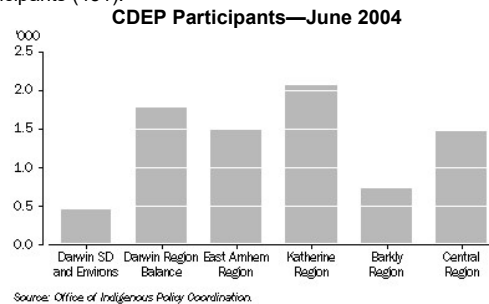
Males continued to significantly outnumber females in the NT, with 111 males for every 100 females at 30 June 2004, compared to 99 males for every 100 females nationally. At 30 June 2003 males outnumbered females in every region, ranging from 113 males per 100 females in Darwin SD and

Environs to 107 males per 100 females in Central Region. Females outnumbered males only in the 0-4 year age group in East Arnhem Region (51% female), and in the 65 years and over age group in Darwin Region Balance (52% female), East Arnhem Region (51% female) and Central Region (52% female).

EMPLOYMENT

CDEP

The Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) Program, administered by the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR), provides much of the Indigenous employment in the Territory. Under the program, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people voluntarily forego their income support from Centrelink and take part in community development initiatives in return for wages equivalent to their foregone benefit. Participants are considered to be employed and so the program has a significant influence on NT labour force estimates. At June 2004 there were 7,968 CDEP participants in the NT, reflecting little change from June 2003 (7,916). Katherine Region and Darwin Region Balance had the highest numbers of participants employed under the CDEP Program at June 2004 (2,061 and 1,776 respectively) while Darwin SD and Environs had the smallest number of participants (451).



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

At August 2004 there were 15,831 Indigenous students enrolled in the NT, representing 38% of all students. Indigenous students comprised 42% of all preschool enrolments, 39% of primary school enrolments and 35% of secondary school enrolments. During the five years to 2004 Indigenous student enrolments increased by 10% while non-Indigenous enrolments declined by 2%.

PRICES, INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Between December quarter 2003 and December quarter 2004 the Consumer Price Index for Darwin rose 1.9% compared to a rise of 2.6% for the weighted average of Australia's eight capital cities. The greatest increases for Darwin were recorded for health (up 6%), housing (up 4%) and education (up 3%). The indexes for clothing and footwear and recreation decreased over the same period by 4% and 2% respectively.

INCOME

In 2001-02 the average taxable income for individual taxpayers in the NT was \$39,322 and the average net tax paid by them was \$8,770. East Arnhem Region recorded both the highest average taxable income (\$48,578) and average net tax paid (\$11,949), while Barkly Region had both the lowest average taxable income (\$35,899) and the lowest average net tax paid by individual taxpayers (\$6,733). The SLA of Groote Eylandt had the highest average taxable income at \$58,982, largely as a result of employment in mining activities in this area.

INCOME SUPPORT

Selected Centrelink income support benefits

At June 2003 Central Region had the highest rate of persons receiving an Age Pension at 32.9 per 1,000 population, followed by Darwin SD and Environs (31.4). Darwin Region Balance recorded the highest rate of persons receiving Parenting Payment Single (39.2 per 1,000 population) and the highest rate of persons receiving Youth Allowance (33.5 per 1,000 population) at June 2003. The rate of Family Tax Benefit was highest in Darwin Region Balance at 137.1 per 1,000 population. Of the regions where Rent Assistance figures were available, the highest rate was recorded in Darwin SD and Environs (38.8 per 1,000 population).

Selected Veterans' pensions

At June 2004 there were 1,356 pensioners in the NT receiving one or more of Disability, Veteran or Partner Service or War Widow(er) Pensions from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). Over three-quarters of these pensioners resided in Darwin SD and Environs (81%), with Central Region (10%) and Katherine Region (5%) having the next highest proportions. The Disability Pension was the most common form of payment (received by 745 pensioners in the NT) followed by Veteran Service Pension (294).

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

TRAFFIC INFRINGEMENTS

In 2004 there were 32,760 traffic infringement notices issued by police in the NT, down 18% from 2003. Exceeding the speed limit remained the most common type of traffic infringement notice in the NT, accounting for almost three-quarters (72%) of all traffic infringement notices in 2004. This figure includes speed camera infringements which fall predominantly in Darwin SD and Environs and Central Region.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE APPLICATIONS

Domestic violence applications are the initiating document in a domestic violence matter. They can be lodged by individuals or by police. In 2004 there were 1,687 domestic violence applications lodged in the Magistrates Court, up 5% from 2003. Between 2003 and 2004 the proportion of applications lodged by individuals decreased slightly from 58% to 55% while the proportion of applications lodged by police increased from 42% to 45% over the same period. Domestic violence applications lodged by police outnumbered applications by individuals in three of the NT's six regions – Darwin Region Balance (69% of all applications), Barkly Region (62%) and East Arnhem Region (56%). In 2004 Barkly Region recorded the highest rate of domestic violence applications lodged per 10,000 population (207.2), which was nearly two and a half times more than the NT total application rate (84.4). In contrast, East Arnhem Region and Darwin SD and Environs recorded the lowest application rates (60.2 and 61.9 respectively).

HEALTH

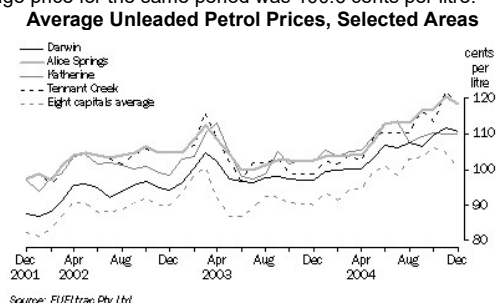
CAUSES OF DEATH

During the period 1999-2003 the most prevalent causes of death in the NT were diseases of the circulatory system (including heart disease), accounting for 26% of all deaths, and malignant neoplasms (cancer) (20%). During the five years to 2003, the leading cause of death for the Indigenous population was diseases of the circulatory system (26% of Indigenous deaths, compared with 27% of non-Indigenous deaths). In contrast the leading cause of death for the non-Indigenous population was malignant neoplasms (cancer), accounting for 28% of non-Indigenous deaths, compared with 13% of Indigenous deaths.

TRANSPORT

PETROL PRICES

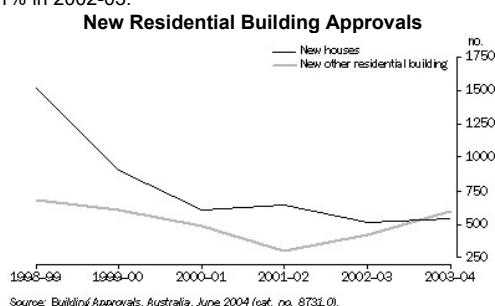
During the three years to December 2004, changes in the average price of unleaded petrol in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek generally reflected changes in the eight capitals average, although NT average prices remained considerably higher. At December 2004 Alice Springs had the highest petrol price (118.3 cents per litre), followed by Tennant Creek (118.1 cents per litre), Darwin (110.8 cents per litre) and Katherine (110.1 cents per litre). The eight capitals average price for the same period was 100.6 cents per litre.



HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING APPROVALS

Building approvals data is an indicator of expected building activity. Between 2002-03 and 2003-04, approvals for new houses in the NT increased by 6% (from 514 to 545). Darwin SD and Environs accounted for 62% of all new house approvals in 2003-04, while Central Region accounted for 14%. Approvals for new other residential building in the NT increased by 39% between 2002-03 to 2003-04 (from 428 to 593). The vast majority of new other residential approvals in 2003-04 were in Darwin SD and Environs (95%), up from 84% of all new other residential approvals in 2002-03, followed by Central Region (3%), down from 11% in 2002-03.



PUBLIC HOUSING

Of all tenants allocated public housing in the NT during 2003-04, 52% had waited six months and under, 18% had waited seven to 12 months, and 30% had waited more than a year. Applicants in Katherine and Barkly Regions experienced the shortest wait times, with the majority of tenants having waited less than six months or under (72% and 60% respectively). In contrast, applicants in East Arnhem and Central Regions experienced the longest wait times, with the majority of the tenants having waited more than 12 months (75% and 63% respectively).

MINING AND ENERGY

MINERAL PRODUCTION

In 2003-04 all of the NT's manganese, bauxite and alumina was produced in the East Arnhem Region (where large mines are located at Groote Eylandt and Nhulunbuy) and amounted to 10.5m tonnes, an increase of 6% from the previous year. Gold production for the NT was 19.4m grams in 2003-04, down slightly from 20.3m grams in 2002-03. Central Region accounted for 93% (18.1m grams) of the gold produced, up from 88% (17.9m

grams) in 2002-03. Between 2002-03 and 2003-04 production of silver in the NT increased by 23% from 2.3m grams to 2.8m grams. The amount of silver produced in the Central Region almost doubled during this period (up from 1.4m grams to 2.5m grams), resulting in Central Region accounting for 90% of all NT silver produced in 2003-04 compared to 62% the previous year. The production of non-metallic minerals decreased from 2.6m tonnes in 2002-03 to 1.4m tonnes in 2003-04. This can mainly be attributed to reduced demand for aggregate and rail ballast from quarry operations in the Katherine and Tennant Creek areas following the completion of the Darwin to Alice Springs railway.

TOURISM

VISITORS TO THE NT

In 2003-04 the Northern Territory Tourist Commission recorded 1.5 million visitors to the NT, a fall of 10% from the previous year, and continuing a decline in the total number of visitors to the NT since 1999-2000. Of the 1.5 million visitors to the NT in 2003-04, 50% visited the Top End, 39% visited Central Region, 14% visited Katherine Region and 9% visited Barkly Region. On average, visitors stayed 5.7 nights in the Top End compared with 3.8 nights in the Central Region, 3.4 nights in the Katherine Region and 2.4 nights in the Barkly Region. Interstate visitors accounted for 49% of all visitors to the NT in 2003-04, intra-territory visitors for 27% and international visitors the remaining 24%. Interstate visitors accounted for the highest proportion of visitors to each region, ranging from 46% of all visitors to the Central Region to 57% of all visitors to the Barkly Region. In the Top End 30% of visitors came from within the NT and 16% were from overseas, while 41% of all visitors to the Central Region were from overseas and only 13% were from within the NT. The Barkly and Katherine regions both had higher proportions of visitors from within the NT (57% and 55% respectively) than from overseas (11% and 13% respectively).

In 2003-04 visitors to the Top End accounted for 57% of all visitor expenditure, followed by visitors to the Central Region (34%), Katherine Region (6%) and Barkly Region (3%). Because the Top End region had the longest average length of stay, visitors spent most overall in that region, followed by Central Region.

NORTHERN TERRITORY ECONOMY

NORTHERN TERRITORY GROSS STATE PRODUCT

In 2003-04 the NT Gross State Product (GSP) (at current prices) was \$9,494m, an increase of 3.5% from the previous year. NT GSP contributed 1.2% to Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

In 2003-04 NT GSP (at current prices) was \$47,783 per capita, which was \$7,136 (17.6%) higher than Australia's GDP per capita. NT GSP per capita has been greater than the national average each year since the ABS began to produce GSP estimates (in 1989-90).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

In 2003-04 the Darwin City Council recorded the highest total revenue (\$51.7m) and the highest level of total expense (\$48.4m) of all seven municipalities in the NT. Grants were a significant component of total revenue for the smaller municipal councils with Litchfield Shire Council and Tennant Creek Town Council receiving 39% and 33% of their budgets from grants. In contrast the larger councils such as Darwin and Palmerston City Councils received 10% and 15% respectively of their budgets from grants. Similarly, grants were a major component of total revenue for the Community Government Councils (CGCs) and Incorporated Associations (IAs), comprising half (50%) of the budgets of all CGCs and IAs in the NT in 2003-04.

About this Release

ABOUT THIS RELEASE

In future data from this publication is expected to be available in the National Regional Profiles on the ABS website so this may be the final issue.

Contains ABS and other government agency data for Northern Territory regions and sub-regions, including information on population, employment, education and training, prices, income and expenditure, law and public safety, health, transport, housing and construction, agriculture and fisheries, mining and energy, tourism, imports and exports and government finance. Indigenous statistics are also included.